NUMB. VIII.

The GUARDIAN.

—— *Animum rege*— Hor.

Friday, March 20. 1713.

A Guardian cannot beſtow his time in any Office more ſuitable to his Character, than in repreſenting the Diſaſters to which we are expoſed by the Irregularity of our Paſſions. I think I ſpeak of this matter in a way not yet taken notice of, when I obſerve that they make Men do things unworthy of thoſe very Paſſions. I ſhall illuſtrate this by a Story I have lately read in the *Royal Commentaries of* Peru, wherein you behold an Oppreſſor a moſt contemptible Creature after his Power is at an end; and a Perſon he oppreſſed ſo wholly intent upon Revenge till he had obtained it, that in the purſuit of it he utterly neglected his own Safety; but when that Motive of Revenge was at an end, returned to a Senſe of Danger, in ſuch a manner, as to be unable to lay hold of Occaſions which offered themſelves for certain Security, and expoſe himſelf from Fear to apparent Hazard. The Motives which I ſpeak of are not indeed ſo much to be called Paſſions, as ill Habits ariſing from Paſſions, ſuch as Pride and Revenge, which are Improvements of our Infirmities, and are methinks but Scorn and Anger regularly conducted: But to my Story.

Licenciado Eſquivel, Governor of the City *Potoſi*, commanded 200 Men to march out of that Garriſon towards the Kingdom of *Tucman*, with ſtrict Orders to uſe no *Indians* in carrying their Baggage, and placed himſelf at a convenient Station, without the Gates, to obſerve how his Orders were put in Execution; he found they were wholly neglected, and that *Indians* were laden with the Baggage of the *Spaniards*, but thought fit to let them march by till the laſt Rank of all came up, out of which he ſeized one Man, called *Aguire*, who had two *Indians* laden with his Goods: Within few Days after he was taken in Arreſt, he was ſentenced to receive 200 Stripes. *Aguire* repreſented by his Friends, that he was the Brother of a Gentleman, who had in his Country an Eſtate, with Vaſſalage of *Indians*, and hoped his Birth would exempt him from a Puniſhment of ſo much Indignity. *Licenciado* perſiſted in the Kind of Puniſhment he had already pronounced; upon which *Aguire* petitioned that it might be altered to one which he ſhould not ſurvive; and, though a Gentleman, and from that Quality not liable to ſuffer ſo ignominious a Death, humbly beſought his Excellency that he might be hanged. But though *Licenciado* appeared all his Life, before he came into Power, a Perſon of an eaſie and tractable Diſpoſition, he was ſo changed by his Office, that theſe Applications from the unfortunate *Aguire* did but the more gratifie his Inſolence; and, during the very time of their Mediation for the Priſoner, he inſulted them alſo, by commanding, with a haughty Tone, that his Orders ſhould be executed that very Inſtant. This, as it is uſual on ſuch Occaſions, made the whole Town flock together; but the principal Inhabitants, abhorring the Severity of *Licenciado*, and pitying a Gentleman in the Condition of *Aguire*, went in a Body, and beſought the Governor to ſuſpend, if not remit the Puniſhment. Their Importunities prevailed on him to defer the Execution for eight Days; but when they came to the Priſon with his Warrant, they found *Aguire* already brought forth, ſtripped, and mounted on an Aſs, which is the Poſture wherein the baſeſt Criminals are whipped in that City. His Friends cryed out, Take him off, take him off, and proclaimed their Order for ſuſpending his Puniſhment; but the Youth, when he heard that it was only put off for eight Days, rejected the Favour, and ſaid, *All my Endeavours have been to keep my ſelf from mounting this Beaſt, and from the Shame of being ſeen naked; but ſince things are come thus far, let the Sentence proceed, which will be leſs than the Fears and Apprehenſions I ſhall have in theſe eight Days enſuing, beſides I ſhall not need to give farther trouble to my Friends for Interceſſion in my behalf, which is likely to be as ineffectual as what hath already paſſed.* After he had ſaid this, the Aſs was whipped forward, and *Aguire* ran the Gantlet according to the Sentence. The calm Manner with which he reſigned himſelf, when he found his Diſgrace muſt be, and the Scorn of dallying with it, under a Suſpenſion of a few Days, which Mercy was but another form of the Governor's Cruelty, made it viſible that he took Comfort in ſome ſecret Reſolution to avenge the Affront.

After this Indignity *Aguire* could not be perſuaded (tho' the Inhabitants of *Potoſi* often importuned him from the Spirit they ſaw in him) to go upon any Military Undertaking, but excuſed himſelf with a modeſt Sadneſs in his Countenance, ſaying, *That after ſuch a Shame as his was, Death muſt be his only Remedy and Conſolation, which he would endeavour to obtain as ſoon as poſſible.*

Under

(Price Two Pence.)